

Message Text

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ACTION STR-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 DOTE-00 OES-07 CEQ-01 EPA-01
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SIL-01
/168 W

-----031989 300326Z /70

R 291601Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3670
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 37821

DEPT PASS STR AND TREASURY ELECTRONICALLY

USEEC

USMTN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, ETRD, JA
SUBJ: US-JAPAN ECONOMIC TALKS

REFS: A. STATE 299513; B. PARIS 36770

1. DURING A GENERAL DISCUSSION DECEMBER 29 WITH
DE MOREL (DIRECTOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AT
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE), EMBASSY ECONOMIC MINISTER
SAID HE WANTED TO BE SURE GOF UNDERSTANDS OBJECTIVES
WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING IN OUR ECONOMIC TALKS WITH
JAPANESE -- SPECIFICALLY THAT WE WERE ACTING IN THE
GENERAL INTEREST AND ALSO KEEPING OUR MAJOR PARTNERS
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INFORMED. DE MOREL SAID EC MEMBER STATES ARE NOW IN
PROCESS OF WORKING UP NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO EC
COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS TO RENEW EC DISCUSSIONS
WITH JAPANESE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT WE WERE
TRYING TO DO IN TERMS OF JAPAN'S GROWTH TARGETS AND
OPENING UP OF JAPANESE MARKET.

2. DE MOREL NOTED THAT WE HAD UNDERSTANDABLY PRESSED JAPANESE ON MATTERS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES AND THAT EC COMMISSION SHOULD DO THE SAME. IN ADDITION, IT SHOULD REPEAT WHAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN DOING ON GENERAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS LIKE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ACCELERATED JAPANESE GROWTH RATE. DE MOREL AGREED THAT EC AND U.S. SHOULD BE ACTING IN PARALLEL WAY. THE EC WOULD NOT SEEK ANY MORE THAN HAD THE U.S. A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, DE MOREL EXPLICITLY STATED THAT FRANCE SEES NO PROBLEM WITH U.S. BILATERAL "PERSUASION" OF JAPANESE REGARDING CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. THE MEDIUM TERM IS IMPORTANT, IN DE MOREL'S VIEW, BECAUSE THE EC MUST ACT NOW TO PREVENT A DETERIORATION AND TO BUILD TOWARD AN APPROPRIATE BALANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN. HE REALIZED THE JAPANESE HAD SOME VALID POINTS, E.G. THEIR CONCERN THAT EXCESSIVE APPRECIATION OF THE YEN WOULD SLOW THEIR GROWTH, BUT THE EC NEEDS TO SENSITIZE THE JAPANESE TO THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. ECONOMIC MINISTER NOTED THAT WE ALSO HAD TRIED TO IMPRESS ON JAPANESE THE IMPORTANCE OF OBTAINING QUICK RESULTS TO AVOID EXACERBATING PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN THE U.S. AND ELSEWHERE. DE MOREL INDICATED FRENCH DID NOT HAVE ANY ANSWER TO BASIC QUESTION OF HOW EUROPEAN-JAPANESE

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RELATIONS SHOULD OR COULD BE ORGANIZED. THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS CONVINCED SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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